

SECRET

IDEALIST

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 23 October 1964
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Contracts Division, OSA

ATTENTION:

SUBJECT:

Flight Test Bonus for
 IDEALIST Carrier Program

REFERENCE:

Memorandum from Kelly Johnson to
 dated 2 October 64,
 Subject: Bonus Paid for U-2G Program
 (IDEA-2205)

1. I have read with care Kelly Johnson's exposition of the reasons behind his request for paying a [REDACTED] bonus to [REDACTED] his senior U-2 test pilot, for the U-2 Carrier Program. I generally concur with the payment of this amount, and believe that it is entirely adequate at the figure quoted. As you know this is an accepted practice in the aviation industry since industrial test pilots are usually paid a very modest annual retainer, on top of which is piled the bonus based upon actual flying at amounts pegged to the relative risk involved.

2. In the case of the U-2G, for example, there was no way in which the landing aboard ship could be simulated in wind tunnels, and there was no positive certainty that the aircraft would behave as nicely as it did. It is also worth noting that there was no tested underwater escape system in the U-2G at the time of the tests so had the aircraft impacted in the water on landing [REDACTED] escape prospects could be considered less than good.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
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